



State of California
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Inquiry: Our respiratory company does several Cpap, Bipap setups. Recently our Respiratory Therapist asked how long regular visitations should occur for patients, which the insurance has purchased their Cpap or Bipap or have capped on their rental of the equipment. We currently do the initial setup/visitation then do follow up visitations every 6 months thereafter. We simply do not know how long to carry on with the six month visitations, some of these patients don't even see a doctor regularly anymore, despite our recommendations.

Response: Your inquiry is one that should balance patient safety with appropriate business practices. In the case where patients are not seeking regular medical direction from a physician, it would appear that their effort to improve their personal health is not optimal. Unfortunately, not much can be done to make patients do the right thing.

From a clinical perspective, I think it is reasonable to assume that follow-up visits should continue until the patient has reached a specified level of competency with the equipment and its application. Your company can define that competency and would probably have some documentation to validate when that has occurred. Beyond that, the physician who ordered the therapy should be monitoring the patient's progress and determining if additional education or home visits would be useful

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